

Rebecca Henry's Biography

Rebecca Henry is the Deputy Chief Counsel of the Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence at the American Bar Association, where she is responsible for developing and implementing technical assistance programs for civil attorneys with a victim-centered domestic or sexual violence practice. In that role, she conducts on-site training and consultations for state, local and national programs, develops new print and electronic resources, oversees the National Domestic Violence Pro Bono Directory, researches and refers individual requests for assistance, and coordinates internal and national policy initiatives, including the ABA Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in Civil Protection Order Cases, and the Drafting Committee of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, supporting VAWA Reauthorization in 2012.

Rebecca has been advocating for survivors since 1998, beginning with her participation in a successful lawsuit to prevent pat frisks of women incarcerated by the state of New York, the vast majority of whom have a history of domestic and/or sexual violence. After clerking on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Nashville, Tennessee, Rebecca worked as a Coffin Fellow at Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Portland, Maine, representing DV survivors and their children in complex family matters.

Upon completing her Fellowship, Rebecca was staff attorney and then project director of the OVW-funded Elder Justice Project at Maine's Legal Services for the Elderly. As Project Director she developed and presented trainings to hundreds of police officers, prosecutors and court staff about best practices for criminal justice interventions for elder abuse, and collaborated with the National White Collar Crime Center to develop a three-day national curriculum on investigating financial crimes against seniors perpetrated as a part of the cycle of abuse.

Rebecca is admitted to the New York and Maine bars. She earned her law degree from New York University, where she received the New York Bar Association's Legal Ethics Award and served as a senior editor of the Review of Law and Social Change. Rebecca received her MA in philosophy and feminist theory from the University of Minnesota.